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## MISERY OF A GRANDDUKE

His Liaisons Lead His Wife to Seek for a Divorce.

**Hismarck's Troubles - French-Chinese Engagement - Egypt - The London Bridge Explosion Investigation - General Foreign.**

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Tremendous efforts are being made in court circles, both in Russia and Germany, to stifle the scandalous conduct of the domestic misery of the Grand Duke Sergius Alexandrovitch, of Russia, and his bride, Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Louise Aliov, of Hesse. The fact that the Princess had begged for a divorce leaked out last week, but the report was promptly met by an official denial emanating from the Court of St. Petersburg. The denial, however, failed to have the weight that was desired, for too many details of the scandalous conduct of the bridegroom, both before and since his marriage, had already become public property. The Grand Duke, who is the third son of the late Czar, and the youngest but one of the Imperial Grand Dukes, is said to have a Cossack's love for female conquests, and to be reckless and unscrupulous with women, even if their rank is equal to his own. A marriage was arranged for him with the Princess Elizabeth of Hesse, who is the granddaughter of Queen Victoria and a daughter of the Grand Duke Louis IV. of Hesse by his second wife, the late Princess Alice of England. Sergius was twenty-six years old and Elizabeth nineteen when he went to Darmstadt to go through the formality of paying court to the Princess. The wedding was arranged for last April, but the death of Prince Leopold of England caused a postponement of the ceremony, and it was not scheduled until June. In the meantime, it is said, the Grand Duke Sergius committed the unpardonable imprudence of bringing a very attractive Frenchwoman to Darmstadt and maintaining her at a hotel. His visits to her rooms were frequent, and there seemed to be no attempt at concealment of the admiration which the Grand Duke felt for the fair Parisienne. At last the Darmstadt police felt bound to interfere. They reasoned that "a Prince can do no wrong" and therefore the blame must be with the woman. She was compelled to leave the Grand Duke, and she returned to Paris, where, it is said, she was soon after rejoined and comforted by Sergius. The postponed wedding of the Grand Duke and the Princess took place the 18th of last June in the Winter Palace at St. Petersburg. The Princess came by railway from Germany and was met at the St. Petersburg station the 29th of June by the Czar and the Czarina, the Grand Duke Sergius, and other august personages. The streets from the station to the palace were doubly lined with troops, and every household along the route had been warned by the police to keep his doors and windows closed and to admit no stranger under any pretext. The marriage ceremony was solemnized two days later with the customary pomp. Two services were recited, according to the orthodox and Lutheran rituals, and a salute of 101 guns signalled the end of the ceremonies. A state banquet was given in the evening, and elaborate toasts were tendered to the bride and groom, the Czar of Russia, the Queen of England, and the Grand Duke Louis of Hesse. Now the Princess wants a divorce according to Russian law. The only authority in the world that can divorce the wife of a Romanoff is that of the Czar. As the Imperial and spiritual father of all Russians, he has power over all marriages and separations, but he possesses special and unlimited powers in this case as the head of the Romanoff family. Princess Elizabeth accordingly has lain at the feet of the Czar her humble petition for a divorce or separation from her brother. The petition recites that the Grand Duke still maintains liaison with the Paris beauty who caused the scandal at Darmstadt, and it charges him with various specific acts of infidelity and cruelty. The main facts in regard to this scandal have been received in London society circles by letters and telegrams from St. Petersburg and Darmstadt. It is learned from a confidential and trustworthy source that the young Princess, who is a spirited woman, tells her friends that she did not propose to play the part of a neglected wife or to "weave the willow" for any man as long as he is alive.

**HISMARCK'S ENER TO ENGLAND.**  
The Vienna papers are glowing over the snubbing administered to England by Hismarck in the white book recently issued by Germany. The great Chancellor has also furnished another sensation in London by his threat of resigning all his official positions and retiring to private life. Well informed Germans, however, remember his former threats to the same effect and believe that he will die in harness.

**THE POPE DENOUNCES DIVORCE.**  
ROME, Dec. 18.—The Pope has created a sensation in clerical circles by writing a pontifical letter to Cardinal Perrich, strongly denouncing divorce as a heinous violation of the sacraments of the church. The Holy Father makes a most vigorous appeal against the divorce bill now being discussed in the Italian Chambers.

**LONDON BRIDGE EXPLOSION.**  
LONDON, Dec. 15.—A closer examination of the London Bridge by experts to-day revealed thirteen different cracks, from seven to twelve inches long, in the granite at the lower part of the buttress of the bridge at the place where the explosion occurred. The damaged part resembles a pane of glass with starred cracks. The river above and below the bridge is being dredged in hope of finding some remnant of the explosive substance which may afford a clue to the author.

**FRENCH-CHINESE ENGAGEMENT.**  
PARIS, Dec. 18.—A dispatch from Hanoi received this afternoon states that 3,000 Chinese troops made a desperate attempt to capture Chu, but after several fierce battles were completely routed by the French garrison occupying the place. The Chinese loss is put at 800 killed, and the French at thirty-four killed and wounded.

**Indicted for Murder Twenty Years Ago.**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Dec. 18.—Twenty years ago Telesforo Aquella stabbed and killed Antonio Castille in the streets of Corpus Christi. Aquella succeeded in escaping into Mexico where he lived for over fifteen years. Recently he returned to this city, thinking his crime had been forgotten. Yesterday the Grand Jury found an indictment against Aquella for the murder committed in 1884. He was immediately arrested and removed without bail.

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